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100 Facts About Egypt № 72

Egypt has a century-old women's movement.



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- The Egyptian Feminist Union, established in 1923, was the first nationwide feminist movement in the Arab world. In 1988, feminist activist Hoda Badran founded the Alliance for Arab Women (AAW), which acts today as an umbrella organization to about 350 NGOs nationwide.
- The first female cabinet minister was appointed in 1962. Women have occupied at least one or two portfolios in each cabinet ever since.

Currently, three women serve in the cabinet: Minister of Manpower and Immigration Aisha Abdel-Hady Abdel-Ghany, Minister of International Cooperation Fayza Abul Naga and Minister of State for Family and Population Mosheera Mahmoud Khattab.

- Tahany el-Gebali became Egypt's first female judge in 2003, when she was appointed by President Hosni Mubarak to the Constitutional Court, the nation's highest judiciary body. Today, Egypt has 42 female judges.



Source: Associated Press, NPR and Egypt Today
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/04/06/ap/middleeast/main6306986.shtml>
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125501126>
<http://www.egypttoday.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=2301>

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